

MARY ANNE KRUPSAK

First Female Lieutenant Governor of New York



"(W)e take an oath of office to defend the country and defend the Constitution, and that means you have to work with everyone else that was elected." - Mary Anne Krupsak

In 1974, New York State Senator Mary Anne Krupsak was elected Lieutenant Governor of New York with Governor Hugh Carey, making her the first woman elected to statewide office.

Born in Schenectady to Polish-American parents, Krupsak earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester in 1953 and a master's degree in communications from Boston University in 1955.

Initially working in public relations, Krupsak decided to earn a law degree after working in Washington, D.C., for New York Congressman Samuel Stratton. She earned a law degree from the University of Chicago in 1962.

In 1968, Krupsak was elected to the State Assembly. She would serve in the Assembly and Senate for almost a decade, working to promote women's rights, including sponsoring legislation to modify evidentiary requirements for rape trials.

In 1974, Krupsak served one term as Lieutenant Governor. In 1978, she challenged her former running mate and lost in the primary.